




CON-1474
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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

22 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH : Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P 
SUBJECT : Satellite Publicity

25X1

1. This memorandum recommends action by the DD/P in paragraph 3, below.

2. The attached two Air Force documents were given me today by General Curtin. They represent a change in policy regarding publicity given satellite launching and recovery from one of real time announcements to one of deep secrecy. This is to be applied to SAMOS from now on and it is reportedly Dr. Charyk's view that it should be applied to DISCOVERER as soon as possible.

3. It is claimed that launch-recovery activities cannot be carried out under two different sets of rules regarding publicity. From the SAMOS standpoint, it probably is sensible to handle all publicity in this new fashion; however, from the DISCOVERER standpoint it seems that to suddenly clamp down on all publicity after our past history of open announcements would cause unwanted speculation. This seems to me to be a desirable change for DISCOVERER but not until the DISCOVERER project as such has ostensibly ended in the public view and is referred to only by numerical designators. Unless you would agree to handling DISCOVERER in the new manner at a fairly early time (January 1962), it is recommended that you speak to Dr. Charyk with regard to changing present plans for DISCOVERER.

Dictated, no read
EUGENE P. KIEFER
SA/TA/DPD

EPK/ 

Distribution:

- Cy 1 - DD/P (w/2 TS att.)
- 2 - AC/DPD
- 3 - SA/TA/DPD
- 4 - COVER/DPD
- 5 - RI/DPD

AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADE:
Reclassify SECRET when
separated from TS attachments.

I should like to add a comment to Mr. Kiefer's remarks here reference submerging the DISCOVERER program at this time. The over-all Agency position has always been to refrain from passing out information except in cases where it is actually required. Since the Department of Defense is now advocating a complete disappearance from the scene of the SAMOS project, it seems that this philosophy parallels our own and that to advocate continued publicity for the DISCOVERER is in fact a contradiction. I would recommend that we concur in moving the DISCOVERER cover posture to parallel the SAMOS but this should be accomplished in a phased manner evaluating each step as it is accomplished. I do not believe this would be particularly out of the ordinary since we are up to 35 DISCOVERER launchings and stories have not varied to any great degree; thus it seems rather natural that repetition of the same type of story would naturally cause a loss in interest and fade from the headlines. In summary, it appears that an agreement to submerge the DISCOVERER program would be consistent with past Agency philosophy, i. e., cover and security, and that this position may avoid a later playback that the Department of Defense security and cover policies are more secure than the Agency's.

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P